

### Remarks

In the Office action dated 25 January 2005, claim 54 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being clearly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,949,892 to Stewart (Stewart). Claim 54 has been amended to clearly overcome Stewart.

Figures 2B, 2C, 3, and 7 of Stewart each disclose an embodiment of the invention. In FIG. 2B the membrane is element 204, in FIG. 2C the membrane is 254, in FIG. 3 the membrane is 303, and in FIG. 7 the membrane is 703. In each of those embodiments it is seen that none of the membranes is a micromachined mesh. Because none of the membranes is a mesh, there is no need to seal the mesh as set forth in claim 54. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that Stewart neither anticipates nor renders obvious the subject matter of claim 54. It is therefore respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 54 be withdrawn.

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the instant application in condition for allowance. Accordingly, a notice of allowance for claims 54-87 is respectfully requested. If the Examiner is of the opinion that the instant application is in condition for disposition other than through allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below so that additional changes may be discussed.

Respectfully submitted,



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